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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Paul J. McNulty, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia, announced that former NBA star, Ralph Sampson, Jr., age 45, currently residing in Georgia, pled guilty today before United States Magistrate Judge Dennis Dohnal, to one felony and one misdemeanor charge of failing to pay court ordered child support. The charges pertain to his failure to pay support for two separate children. Sampson faces a maximum possible sentence of two years and six months imprisonment and full restitution, in the amount of \$268,322.54, when he is sentenced on February 1, 2006, before United States District Judge James R. Spencer.

The felony charge pertains to support Sampson was ordered to pay by the Stafford County Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court in 1990 for a daughter born in 1988. Initially, Sampson was ordered to pay \$1,500 per month for this child. The monthly amount was reduced to \$675.00 in 1992, however, after Sampson was injured while playing in the NBA. At the time, he owed \$18,000 in arrearages, which he paid shortly after the modification order was entered. From 1992 until 2003, however, Sampson did not make regular payments as ordered. In 2003, when he owed \$21,628.66, he was convicted in U.S. District Court in Richmond of a misdemeanor failure to pay charge. While he subsequently paid his second arrearages for this child, he has since failed to pay an additional \$10,322.54. This present charge is a felony as it is a second offense.

The misdemeanor charge pertains to support Sampson was ordered to pay for a daughter born in 1986. In 1988, the Superior Court of the District of Columbia Family Division Domestic Relations Branch ordered Sampson to pay \$1,500.00 a month in support for this daughter. Since 1991, however, he has not made any payments under the order, and the total arrearage for this child, as of October 28, 2005, is \$258,000.00.

The case was investigated by the Department of Health and Human Services and prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Sara E. Flannery.

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